



Due Process is Not at Odds with Survivor Safety

Violence Free Minnesota is the statewide coalition to end relationship abuse. We condemn the exploitative, xenophobic public narratives surrounding the unjust deportation of Kilmar Abrego Garcia and his alleged history of domestic violence against his wife, Jennifer Vasquez Sura. As an agency devoted to ending relationship abuse, we believe that perpetuation of xenophobia (prejudice against individuals from other countries), violation of human rights, and the exploitation of survivors perpetuates dangerous intersections of state and interpersonal violence. Ms. Vasquez Sura's right to safety and autonomy does not conflict with Mr. Abrego Garcia's right, and anyone's right, to due process and freedom from kidnapping.

Legal and Historical Background

Around March 15, 2025, the U.S. Government deported Mr. Abrego Garcia to El Salvador. Mr. Abrego Garcia had won a withholding of removal to El Salvador in a previous immigration case. This meant that Mr. Abrego Garcia was deportable, but the only country the U.S. could not send him to was El Salvador, due to his fear for his safety if returned there.¹ The judge granted the withholding of removal due to this fear, but denied asylum due to a time bar.²

Since his deportation, Mr. Abrego Garcia's case has become nationally known. A district court has ordered the Government to "facilitate" his return due to the violation of the withholding of removal³. After stating that the deportation was in error, the Government has now made several accusations in arguing for why they should not have Mr. Abrego Garcia returned. They have argued that the courts cannot direct foreign policy, that Mr. Abrego Garcia is a gang member, and that he committed domestic violence.⁴ **This last allegation compels Violence Free Minnesota to speak today.** Prior to his removal, Mr. Abrego Garcia was not afforded due process. Due process is the way we can confirm that court rulings are measured and balanced, and that state-sponsored punishments are not issued in error. Since Mr. Abrego Garcia's removal, we have continued to see a widespread crisis of due process in the U.S.⁵

The United States has long viewed itself as the main power in the Western Hemisphere, and has long destabilized Western Hemisphere countries. Back to the 1800s, the U.S. participated in the two century extortion of Haiti,⁶ invaded Mexico,⁷ and ignored its own Supreme Court to displace the sovereign Cherokee nation from modern day Georgia.⁸ More recently, the United

¹ [Kilmar Abrego Garcia and MS-13: What is alleged and what we know](#)

² [Abrego Garcia and MS-13: What Do We Know? | Lawfare](#)

³ [What we know about Kilmar Abrego Garcia, man mistakenly deported to El Salvador](#)

⁴ [DHS Reveals Second Domestic Abuse Filing Filed by Kilmar Abrego Garcia's Wife | Homeland Security](#)

⁵ [U.S.-citizen family 'traumatized' after ICE raided their Oklahoma home in search of someone else](#)

⁶ [What the World Owes Haiti Now](#)

⁷ [Digital History](#)

⁸ [Milestones in the History of U.S. Foreign Relations - Office of the Historian](#)

States has destabilized Central, South, and Caribbean America through actions like Operation Condor,⁹ support for the establishment of the “Banana Republics,”¹⁰ and the invasion of Panama.¹¹ We cannot discuss immigration from this region without noting that the United States has helped ensure its political and economic instability, directly influencing current immigration patterns.

Survivor-Centered Safety is a Prerequisite to Ending Domestic Violence

Anti-violence advocates have emphasized that the weaponization of ICE will lead to a “chilling effect” on survivors. Many survivors do not want their partners to be deported, or for their families to experience corresponding consequences; rather, they simply want the violence to end. Survivors who are themselves undocumented, or assumed to be, may fear their own deportation if they seek help. We must also reflect on the violent irony of the administration posting Jennifer Vasquez Sura’s address on social media,¹² forcing her family to relocate.¹³ We echo a statement by the Alliance for Immigrant Survivors: survivors must be given “the opportunity to decide what safety, dignity, and justice means for themselves and their families.”¹⁴

The public narrative surrounding Mr. Abrego Garcia’s alleged history of violence also stands at odds with Violence Free Minnesota’s observations in our own state surrounding violence from white men. Our coalition has tracked intimate partner homicides for over 35 years, and has documented many cases of white men killing their families. With little exception, their violence is often minimized and excused as the result of “mental health issues” and “personal struggles.” In contrast, when men of color engage in domestic violence or are assumed to have done so, the public narrative is one of racist stereotypes and the desire for swift intervention from the criminal legal system—including deportation. We support Jennifer Vasquez Sura, *and* we question these racist double standards.¹⁵

Survivors of gender-based violence have too often been invoked to pass unjust immigration policy, and our government has a long history of using gender-based violence as a smokescreen for xenophobia.¹⁶ Violence Free Minnesota stands in solidarity with all survivors and believes that as an anti-violence movement, we must uplift the humanity of all people, amplify the expertise of survivors, and renounce the weaponization of survivors’ experiences to justify human rights violations. Ending relationship abuse and gender-based violence requires continued opposition to unjust narratives—like those being circulated about Mr. Abrego Garcia’s alleged history of domestic violence—and policies that threaten survivor safety.

⁹ [Operation Condor: the cold war conspiracy that terrorised South America | Espionage | The Guardian](#)

¹⁰ [The Dark Side of Bananas: Imperialism, Non-State Actors, and Power](#)

¹¹ [Trump eyes Panama Canal, Panamanians recall 1989 U.S. invasion : NPR](#)

¹²

<https://www.msnbc.com/top-stories/latest/abrego-garcia-wife-safe-house-homeland-security-address-rcna-202761>

¹³ [Abrego Garcia’s wife said she moved to a safe house after DHS posted her address](#)

¹⁴ <https://www.immigrantsurvivors.org/ais-stands-with-jennifer-vasquez-sura>

¹⁵ <https://www.vfmn.org/press-media>

¹⁶ [Trump signs Laken Riley Act, expanding federal immigration enforcement : NPR](#)